



April 6, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Amendment of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules for Unlicensed White  
Space Devices, ET Docket No. 16-56, RM-11745

Dear Chairman Pai:

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for your commitment to bridging America's rural Digital Divide. I know this remains one of your highest priorities, and that message is certainly felt across the Heartland. At Connected Nation, our goals are very much aligned with yours: we advocate for policies that will expand connectivity throughout rural America. While federal investments to expand mobile and fiber networks have been instrumental in connecting rural Americans who have been on the wrong side of the Digital Divide, we can all agree that more needs to be done, and new potential solutions need to be explored.

As part of our mission to expand broadband access to areas that still struggle with limited options to connect—or none at all—Connected Nation recently joined a new coalition called Connect Americans Now (CAN). The coalition has a viable plan to close the Digital Divide by 2022 by utilizing a combination of solutions that brings multiple stakeholders to the table, including fiber-based, satellite, and wireless technologies, leveraging a range of frequencies including TV white spaces.

By leveraging TV white spaces and other unlicensed technologies in rural areas, there is significant potential to reduce the cost of bridging the Digital Divide when compared to deploying fiber solutions alone. That cost savings could mean that we can deliver the life-changing opportunities to rural Americans who

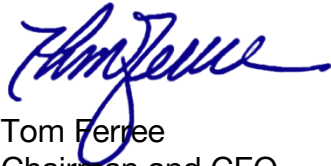
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for too long have lagged behind their city-dwelling counterparts. We believe that all potentially viable options should be on the table to confront this challenge.

Additionally, the coalition understands that it is critical for the FCC to improve its data collection regarding the availability of rural broadband through more accurate, granular, and validated broadband data. We can't solve a problem until we clearly define it, and current estimates surrounding the Digital Divide fall short of demonstrating just how pervasive the divide is throughout rural America.

Thank you for your work on these issues, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts. Like you, we believe that everyone belongs in a Connected Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Ferree", written in a cursive style.

Tom Ferree  
Chairman and CEO